

HOMEMADE LAVA LAMPS!

By Grace Robinson

You will need:

1 tall water bottle

1 eyedropper

1 funnel

food coloring

baby oil

water

Alka-Seltzer tablets

Instructions:

- 1.** In a separate container, mix the food coloring and water. Fill the bottle with baby oil until it is 1/2 to 2/3 full.
- 2.** Use the eyedropper to drop the colored water into the baby oil. Then, pour the rest of the colored water into the bottle using the funnel.
- 3.** Add one Alka-Seltzer tablet to the bottle and watch the chemical reaction. When it slows down, add another tablet and observe the reaction. Or, you can put the lid back on and shake the bottle to watch the liquids separate again. *Be careful*; if you add enough tablets to the bottle, your lava lamp will erupt!

What Did You Notice?

What did you notice when you dropped the water into the oil in Step 2? The water sank to the bottom of the lamp without mixing with the oil because it is denser than the oil. But, when the water and the Alka-Seltzer tablet combined, the gas bubbles the tablets emitted made the water less dense than the oil, thus making it rise. When the reaction slowed, the colored water fell back down.

Citation:

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/homemade-lava-lamp-density-science-experiment/>

